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Chinese Support to North Vietnam Agriculture - State Farms, etc.

1. This office has only limited information on Chinese agricultural assistance to the North Vietnamese in recent years.

2. Limited information indicates that the Chinese have sent agricultural technicians to North Vietnam in recent years. These technicians have been experts in such fields as rice and sugar cultivation, farming techniques, food processing, etc.

3. The Chinese Communists have provided other types of economic assistance to North Vietnam during the past two years. This economic assistance has been mainly in the form of aid to the North Vietnamese transportation system and to the Vietnamese light industrial sector. The capacity of the transportation system has been boosted by Chinese-made trucks, automobiles, locomotives, rails, and boats. The capacity

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of the light industrial sector has been increased by the construction of several complete plants. In 1964 the Chinese constructed a blast furnace at Thai Nguyen, an agricultural chemical plant at Viet Tri, and the 8 March textile plant in Hanoi, the largest and most productive of the North Vietnamese textile plants. In 1964 a monosodium glutamate plant was completed at Viet Tri.

4. In addition, the Chinese frequently provide non-agricultural technical assistance. In 1965 Chinese technicians were present at the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel complex, and at the agricultural chemical plant at Viet Tri. Chinese technicians also helped in other Vietnamese plants.

5. The total value of all economic assistance -- including agricultural assistance -- is difficult to estimate because of the lack of trade data. In 1965 the Chinese probably provided about one-third of the estimated total of \$100 million in economic and technical aid delivered to North Vietnam from all Communist countries.

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